



Virginia Long-Term Care Facility Task Force Monthly Updates

COVID-19 Burden in Virginia LTCFs:

As of 10/3/2022, there were 12 LTCF COVID-19 outbreaks reported in the past 30 days. This is a decrease compared to the number of outbreaks reported (25) in the previous month (8/5/2022 - 9/5/2022). The number of reported nursing home resident and staff cases and hospitalizations have been on the decline.

NHSN Update:

Up to Date Vaccination Status: Surveillance Definition Change for COVID-19 Vaccination Modules for Long-Term Care Facilities

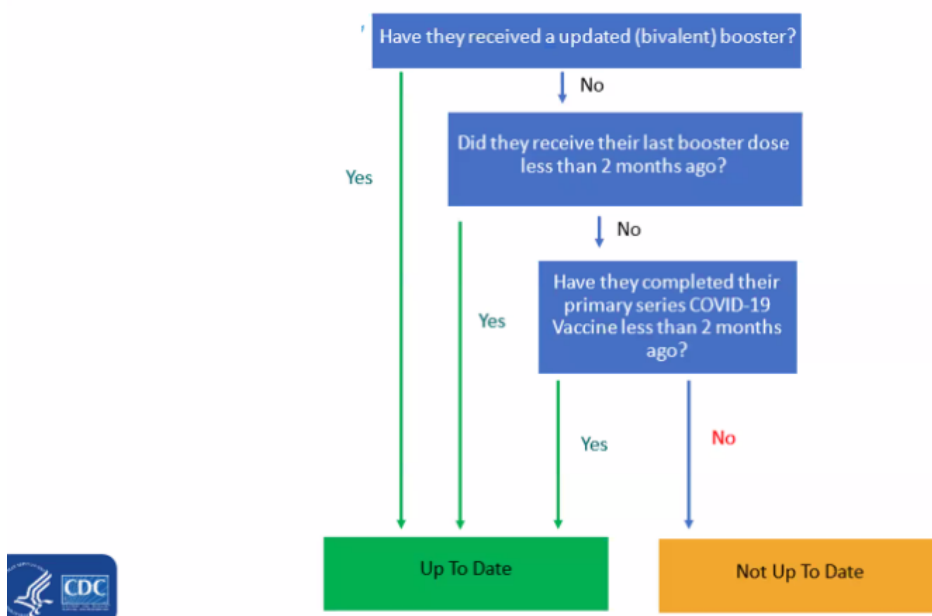
Updated Guidance:

[Weekly HCP COVID-19 Vaccination | HPS | NHSN | CDC](#)

The following definitions apply when reporting data through the NHSN COVID-19 Vaccination Modules for reporting period 2022 Quarter 4 (representing vaccination data for September 26, 2022 - December 25, 2022).

- Individuals are considered up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines during the Quarter 4 surveillance period for the purpose of NHSN surveillance if they meet (1) of the following criteria:
 - Received an updated (bivalent) booster dose,
OR
 - Received their last booster dose less than 2 months ago, or
 - Completed their primary series less than 2 months ago.

Flow Chart: Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines



CDC and CMS COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Guidance Updated:

In September, CDC updated their COVID-19 healthcare infection prevention and control (IPC) recommendations and CMS issued memos containing guidance on COVID-19 testing and visitation. VDH is working on revising several guidance documents on the COVID-19 LTC Task Force website to align with these recent changes.

On October 26 from 12:00-1:00 PM, the VDH Healthcare-Associated Infections & Antimicrobial Resistance Program team will host a webinar to review the latest COVID-19 infection prevention and

control updates from CDC and CMS, with a focus on how they apply to nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

Long-term care infection preventionists, administrators, nursing and public health staff are encouraged to join this webinar and participate in the live Q&A session.

[Register here](#)

Updated CDC IPC recommendations and CMS memos:

- [CDC COVID-19 IPC Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel \(9/23/2022\)](#)
- [CMS memo on nursing home visitation \(9/23/2022\)](#)
- [CMS memo on LTC facility testing requirements for staff and residents \(9/23/2022\)](#)

Monkeypox Updates:

Please continue to check the [VDH monkeypox website](#) for the latest updates. Information for healthcare personnel is on the [VDH monkeypox website for HCP](#). Recently posted information includes:

- [VDH Monkeypox Information Sheet for Healthcare Providers](#) (8/22/2022)
- [VDH Monkeypox Preparedness Checklist for Healthcare Facilities](#) (updated 9/14/2022)
- [VDH Tool for Assessing and Managing Exposed Healthcare Personnel](#) (updated 8/25/2022)
- [VDH What Long-Term Care Facilities Need to Know About Monkeypox](#) (8/31/2022)

When monkeypox exposures occur in the healthcare setting, healthcare facilities should continue to share a line list of monitored individuals with their local health department for awareness, even if the healthcare facility is monitoring those who are exposed.

Enhanced Barrier Precaution Implementation Guidance Updates:

In July, CDC published guidance updates for nursing homes regarding implementation of enhanced barrier precautions (EBP). EBP refers to the use of gloves and gowns during high-contact resident care activities (e.g., providing hygiene, transferring, changing linens, bathing, dressing, assisting with toileting, device care or use, wound care) that provide opportunities for transferring multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) to staff hands and clothing. These precautions fall between Standard and Contact Precautions and balance the use of personal protective equipment and room restriction to prevent MDRO transmission while considering residents' quality of life. EBP are applicable to the **nursing home setting only** and are not intended for use in acute care or long-term acute care hospitals.

With the update, EBP now apply to all residents with any of the following: 1) infection or colonization with an MDRO when Contact Precautions do not apply; 2) wounds and/or indwelling medical devices (e.g., central line, urinary catheter, tracheostomy) *regardless of MDRO colonization status*.

Additional information including the full guidance document, sample educational presentation, frequently asked questions, and sample letters to nursing home residents, family members, and staff are available on the [CDC website](#). VDH resources on this topic (e.g., algorithm, FAQs, presentation) have been posted on the [VDH website](#).

Nursing home staff interested in learning more about EBP and these updates should **save the date** for a VDH webinar on **November 16** from **12:00-1:00 PM**. [Registration is open!](#)

***Candida auris* Alerts in the EDCC Platform:**

Starting September 1, 2022, multidrug-resistant organism (MDRO) alerts for *Candida auris* (*C. auris*) appeared in the electronic medical record of facilities participating in the Emergency Department Care Coordination (EDCC) Program. Alerts appear **indefinitely** for patients/residents with previous *C. auris* clinical or colonization diagnosis reported to VDH. Notification of patients with *C. auris* helps ensure the patient/resident is placed on appropriate transmission-based precautions to prevent further spread, as well as helps inform the optimal antimicrobial therapy regimen, if necessary.

To prepare, facilities should:

1. Update facility-specific *C. auris* guidance and align guidance with [CDC recommendations](#)
2. Create a process to ensure patients/residents with a *C. auris* flag will be promptly placed in the appropriate transmission-based precautions
3. Notify and educate appropriate staff about new *C. auris* flag
4. Continue to communicate *C. auris* status directly with other transferring facilities due to any potential lag in data transfer

We are working to add carbapenemase-producing organism (CPO) alerts into the same portal by the end of 2022. This project is a collaborative effort between VDH, Virginia Health Information (VHI), and Collective Medical.

For more information:

- About this enhancement and to participate in the EDCC Program: EDCCSupport@vhi.org
- About direct support with the EDCC portal and this enhancement (for existing EDCC participants): support@collectivemedicaltech.com

- About the *C. auris* alert, *C. auris* infection prevention, or *C. auris* surveillance: hai@vdh.virginia.gov (VDH Healthcare-Associated Infections & Antimicrobial Resistance Program)

COVID-19 Therapeutics Utilization in Nursing Homes:

The VDH COVID-19 Healthcare Coordination and Therapeutics Team is pleased to announce that the Evusheld Access Pilot Program has launched in Virginia's Central Region.

The Evusheld Access Program aims to increase skilled nursing facility (SNF) resident and staff access to Evusheld, a COVID-19 pre-exposure prophylaxis, thereby preventing COVID-19 outbreaks and protecting vulnerable and immunocompromised patients. This is made possible by our partnership with Indelible Solutions and SnapNurse's mobile clinical team. The program is entirely free of charge.

Since the program launched on September 12, SnapNurse's clinical team visited two SNFs in the Central Region and administered Evusheld to one resident at each site. Our team has received positive feedback from both SnapNurse and the facilities regarding the program.

The program is slated to run for three months as a pilot and we hope to expand to other regions and facility types in the future. In the meantime, our efforts remain focused on bringing the program to more SNFs. If you, or anyone you know is interested in bringing the program to their facility and residents, please contact COVID19Therapeutics@vdh.virginia.gov.

Stakeholder Information from Health Quality Innovators (HQI):

Unsure if Your Emergency Preparedness Plan Meets Infection Prevention and Control Requirements? HQIN Can Help!

Health Quality Innovators (HQI) serves as the CMS-designated Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) for Virginia. Facilities throughout the state partner with our Health Quality Innovation Network (HQIN) on various projects to improve operational processes and clinical outcomes.

Based on lessons learned throughout the pandemic, HQIN is offering a no-cost virtual review of participating nursing homes' emergency preparedness plans with a focus on integration of infection control and prevention. This support is intended to enhance emergency response and survey readiness.

An HQIN representative will contact you to schedule a review or you may request a review by emailing LTC@hqi.solutions.

CMS is committed to reforming emergency planning as noted in the [White House 21-point nursing home plan](#), unveiled earlier this year.

Don't miss this opportunity for a proactive review of your facility's plan.

VDH Team Contact Information:

- Testing: testinginfo@vdh.virginia.gov
- Vaccination: covidpharmacysupport@vdh.virginia.gov
- Therapeutics: covid19therapeutics@vdh.virginia.gov
- Infection Prevention and Control: hai@vdh.virginia.gov

Have any important updates or information for the Virginia COVID-19 Long-Term Care Task Force? Email Jessica Caggiano (jessica.caggiano@vdh.virginia.gov)



